

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 1492

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing sign language interpreter services to hospitals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 4, Chapter 81.006, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 81.0061 to read as follows:

a) Sign Language Interpreter Service. In this section "Video Remote Interpreter" service means a service that uses videoconferencing, videophone or web-based video technologies to access sign language interpreting services without an interpreter on site.

b) The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, shall establish a 24-hour video remote interpreting (VRI) project through which Texas hospitals may obtain VRI services in order to facilitate communication with deaf patients and family members of deaf patients.

c) The Commissioner of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules establishing the process by which hospitals may elect to participate in the VRI project established under this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.